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Message Text

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72
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /122 W
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R 211205Z DEC 73
FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2274
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0886

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MZ
SUBJECT: DECEMBER 20 MILITARY BRIEFING FOR CONSULAR CORPS

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 821

1. ON DECEMBER 20 SCCIM HELD REGULAR CONSULAR CORPS BRIEFING ON MILITARY SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE. THIS TIME BRIEFING COVERED MONTH OF NOVEMBER, GIVING COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR OCTOBER IN MOST INSTANCES. SINCE FIGURES OVERLAP WITH PERIOD COVERED AT PREVIOUS BRIEFING, DIFFICULT DRAW ACCURATE CONCLUSIONS FROM THEM. HOWEVER, FUTURE BRIEFINGS WILL BE BY CALENDAR MONTH AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS SHOULD BECOME SOMEWHAT EASIER.

2. STATISTICS:

(A) FRELIMO ACTIONS: 437 (511 DURING OCTOBER) OF WHICH 58 (80) IN NIASSA, 136 (176) IN CABO DELGADO, 147 (153) IN TETE, 49 (51) IN BEIRA AND 47 (31) IN VILA PERY.

(B) FRELIMO LOSSES: 227 (213) KILLED, 31 (46) CONFIRMED WOUNDED, 120 (162) CAPTURED, 8 (3) SURRENDERED.

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(C) CIVILIAN POPULATION MOVEMENTS: 1,565 (2,771) TURNED THEMSELVES IN, 2,229 (3,606 RECUPERATED, 155 (237) FLED

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FROM PORTUGUESE.

(D) PORTUGUESE CASUALTIES: TROOPS - 12 (10) KILLED, 95 (39 PLUS FIGURES INCOMPLETE) WOUNDED; PARA-MILITARY FORCES - 13 (8 0)7) KILLED, 88 (4 PLUS) WOUNDED; CIVILIAN LOSSES - 24 (24) KILLED, 59 (78) WOUNDED, 210 PLUS (132 PLUS) KIDNAPPED.

FOR THE FIRST TIME FIGURE GIVEN ON FRELIMO ACTIONS AGAINST PORTUGUESE AIRCRAFT DURING PAST SIX MONTHS. THESE INCLUDE 77 FIRINGS AT PLANES AND HELICOPTERS, OF WHICH 7 WERE HIT AND ONE DISABLED; NONE SHOT DOWN. PORTUGUESE ANTICIPATE WITH MISGIVINGS EVENTUAL USE BY FRELIMO OF GROUND TO AIR MISSILES, BUT WILL USE EVASIVE MEASURES WHICH PROVED EFFECTIVE IN GUINEA AGAINST SIMILAR WEAPONS.

3. GENERAL: HIGH RATE OF ATTACKS ON ALDEAMENTOS CONTINUES WITH CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF KIDNAPPINGS. WHILE ACTIVITIES IN NIASSA DISTRICT REMAIN LIGHT, PORTUGUESE ENJOYED LESS SUCCESS THAN USUAL THIS DISTRICT SUFFERING 9 KILLED AND 70 WOUNDED, PLUS 57 KIDNAPPINGS WHILE INFLICTING ONLY SMALL LOSSES ON ENEMY. THIS TREND IS REPORTEDLY BEING REVERSED IN DECEMBER. CABO DELGADO ACTIVITY CONTINUES QUITE HIGH WITH EMPHASIS ON GUERRILLA ATTACKS AGAINST ALDEAMENTOS. SOMEWHAT HEAVIER THAN USUAL LOSSES INFLICTED ON GUERRILLAS. NEW FRELIMO INFILTRATIONS HAVE APPARENTLY TAKEN PLACE INTO WESTERN PORTION OF CABO DELGADO. TETE DISTRICT REMAINS MUCH THE SAME. CAPTURE OF TWO TRANSMITTER RECEIVER RADIOS IS FIRST INDICATION SUCH EQUIPMENT NOW IN USE BY FRELIMO INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE. DISPITE CONTINUED GUERRILLA ACTIVITY AND PORTUGUESE COUNTER-ACTION, CABORA BASSA TRANSMISSION LINES WERE COMPLETED DECEMBER 12, SIX MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. IN VILA PERY FRELIMO ACTIVITY AGAINST TETE-VILA PERY ROAD MAINLY NORTH OF VILA GOUVEIA WAS ESPECIALLY HEAVY BETWEEN NOVEMBER 11 AND DECEMBER 4. NO ONE KNOWS WHY AS NO SPECIAL CARGOS WERE GOING UP TO CABORA BASSA DURING THAT PERIOD. SOME INDICATION FRELIMO SUFFERING EQUIPMENT SHORTAGES. IN BEIRA DISTRICT, NO CHANGE. NO FURTHER FRELIMO ACTIONS IN GORONGOSA OR ON BEIRA-RHODESIA
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ROAD. CONTINUED PORTUGUESE ACTIVITY AND FRELIMO COUNTERACTION IN MUNGARI AREA.

4. NEXT BRIEFING EXPECTED IN EARLY JANUARY.
VAN OSS

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